

(a) *Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, unless [Unless] a party files a written request for a de novo hearing before the referring court, the referring court may:*

- (1) adopt, modify, or reject the associate judge's proposed order or judgment;
- (2) hear further evidence; or
- (3) recommit the matter to the associate judge for further proceedings.

SECTION 4. Section 201.016(c), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The date an agreed order, ~~or~~ a default order, *or a final order described by Section 201.007(a)(16)* is signed by an associate judge is the controlling date for the purpose of an appeal to, or a request for other relief relating to the order from, a court of appeals or the supreme court.

SECTION 5. (a) The change in law made by this Act to Section 201.007(a), Family Code, applies only to a final order signed by an associate judge on or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) of this section, Section 201.007(e), Family Code, as added by this Act, applies to an order signed by an associate judge under Section 201.007(a)(16), Family Code, before May 1, 2017. The legislature ratifies such an order.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 19, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 2017.

Effective May 29, 2017.

EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY CERTAIN MEDICAL CENTERS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

CHAPTER 280

H.B. No. 2999

AN ACT

relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain medical centers in certain counties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 11.23(j-1), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(j-1) Medical Center Development in Populous Counties. In a county *with a population of 3.3 million or more* ~~[described by Section 201.1055(1), Transportation Code]~~, all real and personal property owned by a nonprofit corporation, *as that term is defined by Section 22.001, Business Organizations Code, organized exclusively for benevolent, charitable, and educational purposes [in the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (Article 1296-1.01 et seq., Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)]*, and held for use in the development or operation of a medical center area or areas in which the nonprofit corporation has donated land for a state medical, dental, or nursing school, ~~and~~ for other hospital, medical, educational, *research*, or nonprofit uses and uses reasonably related to those uses ~~[thereto]~~, for auxiliary uses to support those benevolent, charitable, and educational functions, including the invention, development, and dissemination of materials, tools, technologies, processes, and similar means for translating and applying medical and scientific research for practical applications to advance public health, or for governmental

or public purposes, including the relief of traffic congestion, [~~and not leased or otherwise used with a view to profit,~~] is exempt from all ad valorem taxation [~~as though the property were, during that time, owned and held by the state for health and educational purposes~~]. In connection with the application or enforcement of a deed restriction or a covenant related to the property, a use or purpose described in this subsection shall also be considered to be a hospital, medical, or educational use, or a use that is reasonably related to a hospital, medical, or educational use. *This subsection may not be construed to exempt from taxation any interest in real or personal property, including a leasehold or other possessory interest, of a for-profit lessee of property for which a nonprofit corporation is entitled to an exemption from taxation under this subsection.*

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to ad valorem taxes imposed for a tax year beginning on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.

Passed by the House on April 20, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2999 on May 21, 2017: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 18, 2017: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2018.

NUMBER OF HOURS OF WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF A PLUMBER'S APPRENTICE TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION FOR A PLUMBER'S LICENSE

CHAPTER 281

H.B. No. 3049

AN ACT

relating to the number of hours of work experience required of a plumber's apprentice to take an examination for a plumber's license.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 1301.354, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) At the applicant's request, the board may credit an applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 250 hours of the work experience required before taking an examination if the applicant has completed a coherent sequence of courses in the construction trade that are offered through a career and technical education program that is approved by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on April 20, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 19, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 2017.

Effective May 29, 2017.